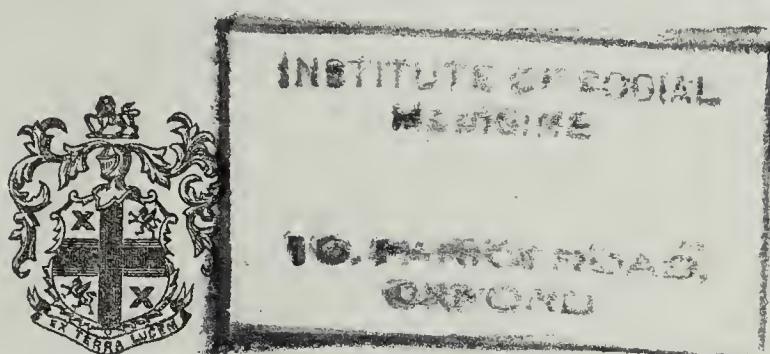


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COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for
the Year 1950.

FRANK HAUXWELL, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health
and School Medical Officer.

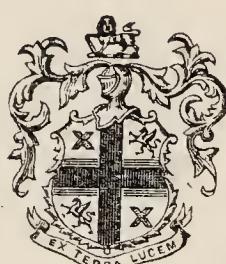
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INDEX

	<i>Page</i>
GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS	5
METEOROLOGY	9
INFECTIOUS DISEASES	9
IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION	12
AMBULANCE SERVICE	14
MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE	15
TUBERCULOSIS	20
VENEREAL DISEASES	26
MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE	28
MIDWIFERY SERVICE	37
HEALTH VISITING	38
HOME NURSING SERVICE	39
HOME HELP SERVICE	39
INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD	40
SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA	47
HOUSING	56

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE
COUNTY BOROUGH OF ST. HELENS.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit the Report on the health of St. Helens for the year 1950.

The following statement shows some of the principal statistical rates during the past five years.

	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Birth rate per 1,000 of population	22.2	25.2	21.3	17.9	17.9
Death rate per 1,000 of population	11.0	12.7	10.2	10.7	10.1
Infant Mortality per 1,000 live births	59.9	69.8	60.9	41.5	38.6
Maternal Mortality per 1,000 total births	0.83	1.81	1.65	1.45	1.92
Tuberculosis death rate per 10,000 of population	5.0	7.3	6.3	5.8	4.4

The work accomplished during the year under review was carried out under the administration and control of my predecessor, Dr. Frank Hauxwell, who retired on reaching the age limit of his service on the 31st December, 1950. It is not possible for me, therefore, to comment in detail on many aspects of the Report.

The birth rate at 17.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population remained at the same level as the previous year. The crude death rate during 1950 was 10.1 per 1,000 of the population and is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough, the previous lowest being 10.2 per 1,000 of the population in 1948.

The downward trend of the infantile mortality rate, which has been apparent during recent years was continued during 1950, when the lowest rate ever for the Borough of 38.6 per 1,000 of the population was recorded. This rate, however, is still in excess of the figure of 29.8 for England and Wales as a whole.

During the year there were four deaths attributable to childbearing, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.92 per 1,000 live and still-births.

Whilst the incidence of tuberculosis was a little higher than that for 1949, the mortality rates for both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis were the lowest ever recorded.

The general incidence of infectious disease was the lowest on record for many years. Measles and whooping cough were the most prevalent, but only one case of diphtheria was notified during the entire year.

A small number of cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred during the autumn months of the year.

The close of the year saw the commencement of the severe influenza epidemic which was to have such serious results, particularly in the first few weeks of 1951. This outbreak caused a considerable amount of sickness and a very high death rate. Apart from influenza itself, the number of cases of other respiratory diseases was very high, and the number of deaths from bronchitis and pneumonia, particularly among elderly people, was very marked. There is little doubt that the record low death rate for the year, referred to previously, would have been even more satisfactory had this sharp outbreak of influenza not occurred.

Following recommendations from the Ministry of Health provision was made during the year for the future separation of the Ambulance Service from the Fire Service.

Further emphasis was placed on the value of cleanliness in the handling of food, and at the end of the year preparations were well advanced for the holding of a Clean Food Exhibition and for the organisation of classes of instruction in Food Hygiene.

In conclusion, tribute must be paid to the long and devoted service given by Dr. Frank Hauxwell to the St. Helens Local Authority. Appointed Assistant Medical Officer of Health in 1913, he became Deputy Medical Officer of Health in 1919 and was appointed Medical Officer of Health in 1921, thus completing before his retirement in December, 1950, a period of 37 years in the service of the Health Department. Over these years the Health Service of the Borough has developed and grown from small beginnings to a wide-ranging and complex department with well equipped services dealing with prevention and after-care of disease in the environmental and personal fields.

His span of service has covered the great years of expansion in public health work, and his wise guidance and control served St. Helens well in these years of formation and advancement.

I am sure he would wish me on his behalf to thank members of the Council, as he has formerly done each year in his Report, for their help and kindly consideration during the past year and during his many years of office.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

G. O'BRIEN.

I.—GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS

Area (Acres) ....	....	....	....	....	....	7,950
Estimated Population mid-year	....	....	....	....	....	112,500
Rateable Value ....	....	....	....	....	....	£523,043
Product of a penny rate	....	....	....	....	....	£2,032

STATISTICAL SUMMARY FOR 1950 :

	M.	F.	Total
Live Births :—Legitimate	978	953	1931
Illegitimate	52	36	88
 Totals	1030	989	2,019

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 17.9

Still-Births :—M. 30, F. 31 ; Total : 61.

 Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 29.3

Deaths :—M. 635, F. 500 ; Total : 1,135.

 Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population 10.1

Number of women dying from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth :

	Deaths	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
From sepsis	—	—
From other maternal causes	4	1.92
 Totals	4	1.92

Deaths of infants under one year of age :—

	M.	F.	Total
Legitimate	39	31	70
Illegitimate	5	3	8
 Totals	44	34	78

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births .....	....	....	....	38.6
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births .....	....	....	....	36.3
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births .....	....	....	....	90.9

Deaths from Measles (all ages) ....	....	....	....	....	—
" Whooping Cough (all ages) ....	....	....	....	....	2
" Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ....	....	....	....	....	21
" Tuberculosis (all forms) ....	....	....	....	....	50

Table 1 gives a summary of the vital statistics for the past 50 years.

Table 1.

Statistics for St. Helens.

YEAR	Population	Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	DEATHS FROM							
					Smallpox	Measles	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid Fever	Typhus Fever	† Diarrhoea	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria
1901	84,734	36.9	19.7	175	0	7	29	34	0	95	17	3
1902	86,043	37.4	19.7	167	0	59	52	25	0	50	18	20
1903	87,372	39.1	17.5	138	0	1	26	18	0	53	30	23
1904	88,722	37.4	20.9	174	3	131	17	13	0	120	49	22
1905	89,843	36.1	17.2	132	0	41	16	2	0	66	26	18
1906	91,153	33.9	17.3	159	0	10	4	18	0	105	5	22
1907	92,476	34.1	18.3	155	0	145	10	12	0	36	52	11
1908	93,812	35.2	16.0	122	0	0	29	12	0	59	7	17
1909	95,161	32.0	18.5	149	0	188	33	13	0	27	62	12
1910	96,523	32.7	14.5	121	1	15	22	10	0	51	16	7
1911	96,870	33.5	18.3	158	0	69	13	22	0	143	39	8
1912	98,159	32.0	15.5	124	0	62	19	8	0	49	46	19
1913	99,460	32.2	18.9	155	0	189	26	4	0	120	18	15
1914	100,775	33.3	17.1	138	0	25	5	4	0	98	24	8
1915†	92,240	32.1	19.3	129	0	126	12	6	0	78	40	32
1916†	90,000	26.5	16.8	108	0	2	30	2	0	64	34	85
1917†	90,600	22.0	16.5	123	0	65	20	2	0	37	19	79
1918†	90,600	24.1	21.2	126	0	26	24	0	0	48	24	100
1919†	100,805	25.5	15.0	117	0	5	9	2	0	35	7	25
1920	104,822	31.8	13.5	113	0	56	7	0	0	44	7	13
1921	104,900	29.1	12.6	103	0	7	5	0	0	62	24	5
1922	106,400	26.4	13.4	115	0	60	4	2	0	28	3	5
1923	107,100	24.4	11.9	91	0	0	4	1	0	24	10	8
1924	108,700	24.1	12.0	103	0	29	1	2	4	36	11	4
1925	109,600	23.9	12.0	100	0	17	7	3	0	35	33	6
1926	110,000	23.2	12.0	102	0	27	1	0	0	43	4	6
1927	113,100	20.8	11.4	88	0	60	2	0	0	26	5	7
1928	110,500	21.8	12.0	98	0	15	5	1	0	29	21	10
1929	109,200	20.7	14.6	114	0	49	6	1	0	23	13	11
1930	109,200	21.5	11.4	80	0	7	2	0	0	4	8	4
1931	108,300	20.1	12.5	88	0	30	0	0	0	21	0	7
1932	107,600	20.1	11.4	89	0	1	1	0	0	26	4	0
1933	107,600	18.0	14.0	116	0	12	2	3	0	18	52	8
1934	*108,240	19.1	10.6	65	0	10	2	1	0	19	1	18
1935	108,100	18.7	12.2	94	0	14	2	1	0	21	15	17
1936	108,000	18.3	12.1	56	0	7	4	0	0	13	3	26
1937	107,400	18.6	12.1	88	0	3	2	0	0	12	7	15
1938	107,200	18.2	11.4	70	0	9	3	0	0	16	6	14
1939	106,600	17.3	11.6	79	0	1	3	0	0	18	4	23
1940†	103,300	18.0	13.4	78	0	10	0	0	0	8	5	19
1941†	102,750	18.6	11.4	71	0	2	1	1	0	13	15	13
1942†	101,500	17.7	10.6	65	0	6	0	1	0	13	1	11
1943†	99,410	19.8	13.0	72	0	0	1	0	0	16	4	6
1944†	98,410	20.5	11.3	57	0	4	0	0	0	21	2	0
1945†	99,150	20.3	11.3	60	0	0	0	0	0	17	0	0
1946†	104,740	22.2	11.0	60	0	2	0	0	0	26	3	2
1947†	105,790	25.2	12.7	70	0	10	0	0	0	44	1	0
1948†	110,100	21.3	10.2	61	0	0	0	0	0	14	1	1
1949	112,100	17.9	10.7	41	0	0	0	0	0	10	2	1
1950	112,500	17.9	10.1	39	0	0	0	0	0	21	2	0

† Estimated civil population.

* Borough extended.

‡ Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea from 1950 inclusive.

POPULATION.—The Registrar General's estimate of population for mid-year 1950 was 112,500. The excess of births over deaths in 1950 was 884.

BIRTHS.—The birth rate for 1950 at 17.9 per 1,000 of the estimated population remained at the same level as that for 1949, and in comparison with the average rates for St. Helens during previous years was low.

The Area Comparability Factor for St. Helens births has been fixed by the Registrar General at 0.99, so that when comparing the birth rate for St. Helens with those of other areas, the St. Helens birth rate for 1950 should be adjusted to 17.7 per 1,000 of the estimated population. The rate for England and Wales during 1950 was 15.8.

DEATHS.—There were during 1950, 1,135 deaths from all causes, giving a crude death rate of 10.1 per 1,000 of the population. This is the lowest crude death rate ever recorded for the Borough, the previous lowest being in 1948 when it was 10.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The "adjusted" death rate (for national comparison) for the year after applying the Area Comparability Factor for 1950 was 12.2 per 1,000 of the population.

The death rate of England and Wales as a whole for 1950 was 11.6 per 1,000 of the population.

Causes of Death.—Figures relating to the causes of, and ages at, death are given in Table 2.

Deaths from Tuberculosis.—Tuberculosis was the cause of 4.4% of all deaths that occurred during 1950. The corresponding percentage in 1949 was 5.4. The ages at which these deaths occurred are shown in Table 2.

Malignant Diseases.—The deaths from these diseases during the past five years were as follows:—

AGE GROUPS	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—
1—	—	2	—	1	—
5—	—	1	—	—	1
15— 25—	16ʃ	23ʃ	15ʃ	18ʃ	13
45—	69	89	82	64	78
65— 75 and over	68ʃ	79ʃ	85ʃ	85ʃ	44 37
Total	153	194	182	168	174
Percentage of the total deaths	13.3	14.3	16.2	14.0	15.3
Death rate per 1,000 of population	1.46	1.83	1.65	1.5	1.5

There would appear to be no relationship between the incidence of malignant diseases and industrial processes in St. Helens.

Infantile Mortality.—During 1950 there were 78 deaths of infants under one year of age, corresponding to an infantile mortality rate of 38.6 per 1,000 births.

This rate is even more satisfactory than the previous lowest rate for the Borough of 41.5 per 1,000 births which was recorded in 1949. It is interesting to observe that the infantile mortality rate had been reduced by 50% during the last 20 years. Despite this fall in the number of infant deaths, however, the rate for St. Helens is still higher than that of 29.8 per 1,000 births for England and Wales as a whole.

Further reference to this subject is made in the Maternity and Child Welfare Section.

Table 2

Table 2—*continued.*

Causes of Death	Sex	All Ages	At Ages					45—	65—	75—
			0—1	1—	5—	15—	25—			
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	M	—	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	—
	F	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	M	11	9	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
	F	10	6	1	2	—	—	—	1	—
Other Defined and Ill-defined Diseases	M	61	19	—	1	—	6	15	9	11
	F	50	15	—	1	—	3	10	9	12
Motor Vehicle Accidents	M	8	—	1	1	2	1	2	—	1
	F	4	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	2
All Other Accidents	M	19	3	3	1	1	2	4	2	3
	F	5	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	2
Suicide	M	4	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—
	F	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Homicide and Operations of War	M	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
All Causes	M	635	44	7	4	6	41	199	147	187
	F	500	34	11	4	12	30	115	127	167
TOTALS		1135	78	18	8	18	71	314	274	354

II.—METEOROLOGY.

The total rainfall for 1950 as measured at the Victoria Park Observatory was 37.57 inches, and as recorded at the Eccleston Hill Waterworks 37.85.

The sunshine recorder at Victoria Park recorded $1,064\frac{1}{4}$ hours of sunshine in 1950. The greatest duration of sunshine on any day was 13 hours on the 11th and 12th May. There were 95 sunless days in 1950.

During 1950 the highest temperature in the shade was on 7th June, when it reached $89^{\circ}\text{F}.$, and the lowest was $15.2^{\circ}\text{F}.$ on the 15th December.

III.—INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

General Observations.—The number of cases of infectious diseases notified each year since 1941 is shown in Table 3.

The general incidence of infectious disease was the lowest on record for many years. Measles and whooping cough were the most prevalent, but only one case of diphtheria was notified during the entire year.

A small number of cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred during the autumn months of the year.

Table 3.

Notification of Infectious Diseases received during the under-mentioned years.

	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	186	146	322	661	530	426	324	345	243	121
Diphtheria	252	255	120	29	21	36	32	13	8	1
Measles	601	3066	269	1716	530	368	1695	1475	857	300
Whooping Cough	1005	423	616	401	144	521	221	492	422	407
Enteric Fever	49	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	88	69	11	59	35	5	53	25	10	58
Erysipelas	28	28	45	34	35	26	12	24	17	18
Pneumonia	134	60	111	98	99	74	102	62	59	25
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	13	7	11	11	13	4	9	6	1	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	13	7	11	11	13	4	9	6	1	—
Ophthalmia										
Neonatorum	9	4	7	5	5	9	3	2	2	1
Acute Poliomyelitis	4	—	1	1	2	—	12	5	1	8
Acute Encephalitis	4	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	25	11	10	1	1	6	6	3	3	4
Malaria	—	1	—	5	4	3	—	2	—	—

Table 4

Infectious Diseases.—Total number of cases notified, number of cases admitted to isolation hospital, and the total deaths from each disease as shown in Registrar General's classification of deaths.

Year 1950

DISEASE	Notifications received	Cases admitted to hospital	Total Deaths
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	121	111	—
Diphtheria	1	1	—
Measles	300	4	—
Whooping Cough	407	16	2
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Dysentery	58	5	—
Erysipelas	18	5	—
Pneumonia	25	3	44
Typhus Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	8	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	4	2	1
Malaria	—	—	—

Table 5.

Age distribution of cases of Infectious Diseases notified.

Year 1950.

DISEASE	Notifications received	Under 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
			1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	121	—	2	10	23	27	48	7	2	2	—	—	—
Diphtheria	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	300	23	38	39	60	64	68	6	—	2	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	407	33	45	55	77	82	111	4	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	58	1	1	2	2	2	6	1	—	9	12	17	5
Erysipelas	18	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	3	3	7	3
Pneumonia	25	2	2	—	1	1	2	1	3	1	1	5	6
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	8	—	1	3	1	1	1	—	1	—	—	—	—
Acute Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	4	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Malaria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Diphtheria.—During 1950 the incidence of diphtheria was the lowest ever recorded in the history of the Borough. Only one case occurred as against 8 in the previous year. A comparison of the figures showing the incidence of the disease since 1939 illustrates graphically the success of the immunisation campaign against diphtheria. There is no question that the decline in incidence and mortality of the disease is undoubtedly due to preventive inoculation.

Year	No. of Cases	No. of Deaths
1939	479	23
1940	287	19
1941	252	13
1942	255	11
1943	120	6
1944	29	1
1945	21	—
1946	36	2
1947	32	—
1948	13	1
1949	8	1
1950	1	—

Acute Poliomyelitis.—During the months of August, September and October 8 cases of acute poliomyelitis occurred. Seven of these cases were of the paralytic type and one of the non-paralytic type. Of the 7 paralytic cases 4 were rather severe in degree with residual muscular paralysis of limbs or trunk. In the 3 remaining cases recovery was complete on discharge home.

Hospital Accommodation.—During the year cases of infectious disease from the St. Helens area continued to be admitted to the Peasley Cross Isolation Hospital, which had on the appointed day, under the National Health Service Act, 1946, been transferred to the Ministry of Health. This hospital is now the sole isolation hospital for the whole of the area covered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee, and thus serves a much wider area than previously. During 1950, however, no difficulty was experienced in obtaining admission for cases from the Borough.

The arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, whereby the isolation hospital was staffed by medical officers from the Health Department, was discontinued on 15th December, 1950. As from that date the Hospital Board undertook the provision of medical staffing for the hospital from other sources.

By arrangement with the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board the Local Authority also retained the use of out-patient facilities in the cleansing block at the hospital for the treatment of scabies and the cleansing of verminous persons. During 1950, 7 cases of scabies were treated and 41 infested persons were cleansed under these arrangements. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 41 cases of scabies and 162 infested persons.

During the year, the disinfection service for the St. Helens Local Authority also continued to be carried out at the Isolation Hospital.

Laboratory Work.—During 1950, the Health Department continued to act as a general receiving centre for pathological specimens and material relating to acute epidemic infectious diseases.

The majority of these specimens are examined at the Pathological Laboratory of the St. Helens Hospital, but others, mainly venereal disease specimens, are forwarded to the City Laboratories, Liverpool.

The following table shows the number of specimens dealt with during the year.

Specimens	Number Received	Results	
		Positive	Negative
Swabs for Diphtheria	149	—	149
Sputa for Tuberculosis	262	63	199
Hairs for Ringworm	3	—	3
Blood for Wasserman Reaction	431	102	329
Films for Gonococci	274	28	246
Blood for Rh. Factor	999	823	176
Other Specimens.....	7	—	7
Total	2125	1016	1109

IV.—IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation.—During 1950, the Local Authority's scheme for the immunisation of the child population against diphtheria continued to operate as in former years. Facilities for immunisation continued to be offered at Child Welfare Clinics and in schools. Where necessary special immunisation sessions were also held in central and district clinics.

The total number of immunisations during 1950 showed only a slight increase over the previous year. It is noted, however, that the number of immunisations by private practitioners showed an appreciable increase over the previous year.

The following is a record of the number of children immunised during 1950.

Number of children immunised during 1950.

Age at 31/12/50 i.e. born in years :	Under 1 1950	1-4 1946-49	5-14 1936-45	15 or over before 1936	Total
Primary Immunisations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	43	817	105	2	967
Private Practitioners	19	304	39	—	362
Total	62	1121	144	2	1329
Reinforcing Injections					
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	8	310	—	318
Private Practitioners	—	2	15	—	17
Total	—	10	325	—	335

The response during 1950 was very similar to that for 1949, and must again be regarded as disappointing when compared, as follows, with the record of primary immunisations carried out since 1945.

1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950
1226	1419	2162	1946	1304	1329

It is estimated that at the end of 1950, 45% of children under 5 years of age and 78% of those aged 5-15 years had been immunised. The immunisation rate for the under-fives is still unsatisfactory. A campaign, organised through the Health Visitors, School Health Service, etc., to encourage greater use of the immunising service was inaugurated towards the end of the year, and it is hoped that 1951 will reveal a more satisfactory position. In addition to primary immunisations of the very young children, it is intended to arrange, mainly in schools, for a much higher percentage of re-inforcing injections among school entrants.

VACCINATION.—The following table is a record of the vaccinations carried out during 1950.

Number of Vaccinations during 1950.

Age at 31/12/50 i.e., born in years :	Under 1 1950	1-4 1945-1949	5-14 1936-1945	15 or over before 1936	Total
Vaccinations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	201	77	5	3	286
Private Practitioners	372	129	27	44	572
Total	573	206	32	47	858
Re-Vaccinations					
Local Authority Medical Officers	—	—	—	20	20
Private Practitioners	—	5	10	81	96
Total	—	5	10	101	116

The total number of vaccinations at 858, showed an improvement over the total of 621 for 1949, but is nevertheless still very low, particularly when compared with the number of vaccinations done annually prior to 1948. The number of vaccinations expressed as a percentage of the total births for the year was 42%, compared with 31% for the year 1949.

The improvement in the number of vaccinations was attributable largely to the increased use being made of the facilities offered by private practitioners to their own patients.

The need for the protection of children against smallpox is being continually emphasised, and all parents are advised to ensure that babies are vaccinated at a very early age.

V.—AMBULANCE SERVICE.

The original arrangements made for the operation and control of the Ambulance Service by the Fire Service continued to function smoothly, and no alterations were necessary during the year.

At the request of the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee provision was once again made during the year for the conveyance in emergency of relatives of patients in hospital and of radiographers summoned to the St. Helens Hospital during hours when public transport was not available.

The co-operation established with the Lancashire County Council Ambulance Service has been maintained and the mutual aid arrangements between the two Services resulted in 8 cases being transferred to Lancashire County Ambulance Stations, whilst the St. Helens Service conveyed 8 cases for that Authority.

During the year the Ambulance fleet was increased by the addition of one new ambulance, making a total of 7 vehicles. The ambulances have been maintained in good condition by the Fire Service mechanics, and during the year 3 major and 721 minor repairs have been carried out. In addition, one ambulance was re-painted.

The normal work of the Ambulance Service included Analgesic Apparatus being conveyed to maternity cases on 294 occasions. Ambulance Service personnel also operate the Service van for the conveyance of medical supplies, etc. to clinics under the control of the Medical Officer of Health, and these duties have been undertaken on 1,365 occasions during the year.

Following receipt of Ministry of Health Circular 40/50, the Health Committee considered the question of re-establishing the Ambulance Service separately from the Fire Service and administered directly by the Health Department. The question was referred to a Sub-Committee of the Health Committee for consideration and report.

The staff continue to receive appropriate training, and 18 members were successful in the St. John Ambulance Association qualifying examination for the Association's certificate.

The total number of cases handled by the Ambulance Service during the year was 16,746, an increase of 2,556 as compared with 1949.

St. Helens County Borough Ambulance Service

CALLS ATTENDED DURING 1950.

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Accidents	46	46	47	37	43	50	49	49	37	40	47	57	548
Street Accidents ...	12	17	15	12	23	28	31	28	21	20	20	15	242
Maternity	85	80	71	85	91	91	86	79	78	66	68	91	971
General Removals ...	372	313	282	238	277	280	290	253	291	322	349	405	3,672
Out-Patients	873	936	1,077	859	925	958	776	850	979	1,107	1,103	860	11,303
Miscellaneous	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	3	10
Totals	1,388	1,392	1,492	1,232	1,359	1,407	1,232	1,261	1,408	1,557	1,587	1,431	16,746

MILEAGES DURING 1950.

Ambulance	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
No. 1 (DJ 7227) ...	475	500	319	216	265	330	260	213	229	255	350	463	3,875
No. 2 (DJ 7924) ...	632	648	1,518	881	592	1,240	1,027	1,123	1,006	1,106	1,587	761	12,121
No. 3 (DJ 9102) ...	1,460	1,287	823	1,040	1,524	850	1,461	979	915	924	—	—	11,263
No. 4 (DJ 6946) ...	1,241	1,066	1,247	1,056	784	1,122	959	869	1,451	1,326	888	1,251	13,260
No. 5 (ADJ 532) ...	1,533	949	1,203	626	1,050	1,011	978	1,078	1,037	554	1,216	1,507	12,742
No. 6 (ADJ 437) ...	1,811	1,927	1,855	1,839	1,678	1,289	1,068	671	1,083	1,434	1,806	1,784	18,245
No. 7 (BDJ 97) ...	—	—	—	564	789	667	990	1,249	906	1,082	1,052	1,003	8,302
Totals	7,152	6,377	6,965	6,222	6,682	6,509	6,743	6,182	6,627	6,681	6,899	6,769	79,808

VI—MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

The powers and functions of the Local Health Authority under the Lunacy and Mental Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938, are carried out by the Local Health Committee, who have appointed a Mental Health Sub-Committee. To this Sub-Committee are referred all powers and duties of the Local Health Authority under the National Health Service Act, 1946, so far as these powers and duties relate to Mental Health and Mental Deficiency.

Mental Health Staff.—The Medical Officer of Health is responsible for the organisation and control of the local services under the Lunacy and Mental

Treatment Acts, 1890-1930, and the Mental Deficiency Acts, 1913-1938. To assist him, the day-to-day administration of the Mental Health Department is supervised by an Assistant Medical Officer of Health. Use is also made of the Consultant Psychiatrist at present on the staff of the Local Education Authority, and, where necessary, of Specialist Medical Officers of the Regional Hospital Board. The Deputy Medical Officer of Health attended a special course, dealing with preventive, diagnostic and administrative aspects of Mental Health, organised by the National Association for Mental Health.

The Non-Medical staff consists of two Mental Health Workers (one male and one female). Both of these officers and the clerk to the Mental Health Services are designated as Duly Authorised Officers. During this year, the clerk to the Mental Health Services attended a residential course for Social Workers in Mental Health, arranged by the Department of Extra Mural Studies at Sheffield University.

The staff of the Occupation Centre for mental defectives consists of a Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor and a Guide and General Helper. The Supervisor and Assistant Supervisor have both previously received post-graduate instruction, and during 1950 the Supervisor attended a one week's course held at Whiteland's Training College, Putney.

For the purposes of Section 5 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913, the following have been appointed approved Medical Officers :—

- Dr. Frank Hauxwell, Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.
- Dr. Gerald O'Brien, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, St. Helens.
- Dr. M. Joyce Caldwell, Psychiatrist, Child Guidance Clinic, St. Helens Education Authority.
- Dr. N. J. W. Thompson, a local general practitioner with experience in mental deficiency ascertainment.

Co-ordination with Regional Hospital Boards.—Close co-operation with the Regional Hospital Board is maintained by frequent consultations with the Board's Consultant Psychiatrist. One or other of the Local Health Authority's Mental Health Workers also attends regularly the Psychiatric Out-Patient sessions at a local general hospital.

The Local Health Authority is also undertaking, on request, the supervision of patients on trial or on licence from Mental Hospitals and Institutions for Mental Defectives.

The number of visits paid, the number of cases involved, and the number of reports submitted during 1950 were as follows :—

Mental Illness.	<i>No. of Cases Involved</i>	<i>No. of Visits Paid</i>	<i>No. of Reports Submitted</i>
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	4	5	4
Mental Deficiency.			
Progress Reports	1	4	4
Reports on home conditions for licence on trial or discharge	19	34	27
Reports on home conditions for the purpose of Section 11 of the Mental Deficiency Act, 1913	22	27	21

Duties Delegated to Voluntary Associations.—No duties of the Local Health Authority have been delegated to Voluntary Organisations. The St. Helens Mental Welfare Society, however, assist in welfare activities among mental defectives, in connection with the provision of clothing and footwear, day outings, holidays, Christmas parties, etc. The Local Health Authority make a grant to the funds of that Society for this work.

LUNACY AND MENTAL TREATMENT ACTS, 1890-1930.

The following is a summary of the work undertaken by Duly Authorised Officers under the above Acts, from 1st January, 1950, to 31st December, 1950 :—

(1)	Admitted to an Establishment designated for the purpose by the Minister of Health.	
	(a) On a Three Days Order under Section 20 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	11
	(b) On a Justices' Fourteen Days Order under Section 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	25
(2)	Summary Reception Orders made under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890.	
	(a) Following detention on an order under Section 20 or 21 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	18
	(b) Admitted direct to a mental hospital on a Summary Reception Order (includes 4 cases normally resident outside the Borough)	14
(3)	Notified as an alleged person of unsound mind or suffering from mental illness and dealt with as follows :—	
	(a) Voluntary Patients	25
	(b) Temporary Patients	2
	(c) No order made	1
(4)	Patients transferred from one Mental Hospital to another under Sections 64-67 of the Lunacy Act, 1890	40
(5)	Patients conveyed to a Mental Hospital by a Duly Authorised Officer under Section 24 of the Criminal Justice Act, 1948	1

During the year 87 other patients, normally resident within the County Borough of St. Helens, were admitted to mental hospitals as voluntary patients.

The following summary gives the disposal of patients in mental hospitals during the year :—

No. of Health Service patients in mental hospitals				
on 1/1/1950 .....	.....	.....	.....	322
Admissions during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	179
	.....	.....	.....	501
Deaths during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	27
Discharges during the year .....	.....	.....	.....	156
	.....	.....	.....	183
No. of Health Service patients in mental hospitals				
on 31/12/1950 .....	.....	.....	.....	318

Care and After-Care.—Close co-operation is maintained with local medical practitioners in dealing with cases requiring help and advice in the early stages of mental illness.

A link between the practitioners and the Hospital Psychiatric Clinic of the Regional Hospital Board is maintained by the weekly attendance at the clinic of a Local Authority Mental Health Worker.

During the year 47 attendances were made and 91 home visits carried out at the request of Consultant Psychiatrists.

The work of rehabilitation of after-care patients is carried out by close contact with the Disablement Re-settlement Section of the Ministry of Labour, and close liaison is also maintained with the Welfare Officers of local industries.

At the beginning of the year, 26 persons were on the Local Health Authority's list of persons requesting after-care from the Mental Health Services.

During the year 99 of the persons discharged from mental hospitals requested after-care and 141 home visits were made by the Mental Health Workers. The number of after-care patients re-admitted to mental hospitals during 1950 was 18, and 22 others were deleted from the list because they requested no further after-care service, died, or were removed for other reasons. The total number of patients being visited and assisted by the Mental Health Workers at the 31st December, 1950, was 85.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY ACTS, 1913-1938.

Ascertainment from 1st January, 1950, to 31st December, 1950.—The total number of cases reported and referred as Mental Defectives was 9, and of this number 3 (1 male and 2 females) were reported under Section 57 (3) of the Education Act, 1944. Action in connection with one case was pending at the end of the year.

The cases were disposed of as follows :—

		Males	Females	Totals
Placed under Statutory Supervision	.....	2	1	3
Placed under Voluntary Supervision	.....	3	1	4
Admitted to Institutions (by Order)	.....	1	—	1
Found not to be defective	.....	—	—	—
Action Pending	.....	—	1	1
	Totals	6	3	9

Admissions to Institutions.—During the year under review the total number of defectives admitted by order to Institutions from the area of the Local Health Authority was 5 (3 males and 2 females).

At the 31st December, 1950, there were 8 cases (5 males and 3 females) awaiting vacancies in Institutions ; three of these cases (1 male and 2 females) were in a Place of Safety. Difficulty continues to be experienced in obtaining vacancies for cases requiring institutional care.

Total Number of Reported and Referred Cases at 31st December, 1950.—The total number of reported and referred cases for whom the Local Health Authority of the County Borough were responsible at the 31st December, 1950, was as follows :—

		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Totals</i>
Under Guardianship (by Order)	.....	2	5	7
Under Statutory Supervision	.....	38	37	75
Under Voluntary Supervision	.....	21	13	34
Reported to be mentally deficient and in respect of which action is pending	.....	—	1	1
	Totals	61	56	117

Supervision—Statutory and Voluntary.—This work is carried out by Mental Health Workers and Duly Authorised Officers.

Statutory Supervision cases are visited at intervals not exceeding three months.

Full reports of each visit are made and submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, and any special recommendations which have been made are noted and placed before the Health Committee or the Mental Health Services Sub-Committee.

The number of visits made to these cases from 1st January, to 31st December, 1950, was 317.

Cases under Voluntary Supervision are also visited at regular intervals. These are cases which have been referred to the Local Health Authority otherwise than under Section 57 (3) and (5) of the Education Act, 1944. The number of visits made in these cases from 1st January to 31st December, 1950, was 82.

Guardianship.—On the 1st January, 1950, there were 7 cases under guardianship for whom the Local Health Authority were responsible. During the year, one defective, under Guardianship by Order, was certified under Section 16 of the Lunacy Act, 1890, and detained in a mental hospital. There were 7 cases still under Guardianship Orders at the 31st December, 1950.

Maintenance grants, at the rate of 26/- per week were being made in all 7 cases at the beginning of the year. The grant was discontinued as from the date of admission in respect of the defective detained in a mental hospital. Maintenance grants were being paid in the remaining six cases at the 31st December, 1950.

During the year a grant was made in respect of clothing on the application by the Guardian of one of the defectives.

All Guardianship cases are seen by a Medical Officer on the Health Department Staff each year, and by Mental Health Workers at intervals not exceeding three months. Reports of each visit are submitted to the Medical Officer of Health, special recommendations being noted and placed before the Health Committee or the Mental Health Sub-Committee.

The number of visits made from 1st January to 31st December, 1950, was 34.

Each guardianship case is on the list of a general medical practitioner.

After-Care.—Cases discharged from an Order under the Mental Deficiency Acts are followed up at home with a view to assisting in their re-habilitation into the community.

During the year 5 visits were made to 3 such cases.

Occupation Centre for Mental Defectives.—The Occupation Centre is situated at "Stanley House," Sinclair Street, St. Helens, the staff consisting of a Supervisor, Assistant Supervisor and a Guide and General Helper. The premises were purchased by the Local Health Authority in January, 1950.

A scheme for the improvement of the Occupation Centre was submitted and, apart from recommendations for amendment of minor details, was approved by the Ministry of Health. This upgrading included the provision of more class-room accommodation, the plastering of the main hall, improved heating system, re-decorations and additional furnishings and equipment.

A special free bus service for the transport of defectives to and from the Centre is provided by the Health Committee. In necessary cases children are collected and delivered to collecting points in the town by a guide and other members of the staff of the Occupation Centre.

The Centre was open on 194 days between the 1st January, 1950 and 31st December, 1950. Though 10 new admissions were made during the year, the average attendance was 34, due to a certain amount of illness of pupils in the earlier part of the year. Dinners supplied through the Local Education Authority's School Meals Service were provided at each session for all pupils.

At the 31st December, 1950, there were 37 St. Helens County Borough pupils (18 males and 19 females) and 10 Lancashire County pupils (4 males and 6 females) attending the Centre, an increase of 10 during the year.

VII.—TUBERCULOSIS.

INCIDENCE.—During 1950 there was a slight increase in the incidence of tuberculosis compared with that of the previous year. 104 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 16 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. A further 15 cases of pulmonary and 1 of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were added to the Register from other sources. The total number of new cases for the year 1950 was, therefore, 136. Particulars of age grouping are given in Table 6.

MORTALITY.—50 patients died of tuberculosis during 1950, the death rate being 4.4. per 10,000 of the population. Of these 50 deaths, 46 were due to pulmonary tuberculosis. Table 7 shows the incidence of the death rate figures for the last 20 years and Table 8 gives comparative figures for some of the neighbouring towns. It will be seen that the 1950 death rate is the lowest ever recorded for the Borough. The previous lowest rate was 5.0 in 1946.

Table 6.

Particulars of new cases and of deaths during 1950.

Ages	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
Under 1 year	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—
1	1	1	1	2	—	2	—	3
5	3	6	1	2	—	—	—	—
15	17	14	2	4	2	5	—	—
25	22	18	—	3	11	5	—	—
45	24	5	1	—	11	3	—	—
65	4	1	—	—	4	1	—	—
75	2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	73	46	6	11	30	16	1	3

Table 7.

Number of cases notified and number of deaths each year, 1931 to 1950.

Year	No. of Primary notifications received.		Deaths		Death Rate per 10,000 of population	
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1931	110	67	103	17	9.5	1.6
1932	141	48	72	16	6.7	1.5
1933	107	60	79	11	7.3	1.0
1934	94	40	72	23	6.7	2.1
1935	83	31	65	9	6.0	0.8
1936	75	48	72	7	6.7	0.6
1937	87	46	60	15	5.6	1.4
1938	74	35	57	13	5.3	1.2
1939	57	39	49	21	4.6	1.9
1940	96	44	67	12	6.5	1.2
1941	81	33	46	23	4.5	2.2
1942	80	25	59	15	5.8	1.5
1943	107	24	64	12	6.4	1.2
1944	94	27	48	12	4.9	1.2
1945	81	25	58	13	5.8	1.3
1946	101	24	48	4	4.6	0.4
1947	111	10	68	9	6.4	0.9
1948	98	15	63	7	5.7	0.6
1949	96	16	58	7	5.2	0.6
1950	104	16	46	4	4.1	0.3

Table 8.
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT, YEAR 1950.

Towns	Death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Death rate from other Tubercular Diseases
Birkenhead	0.63	0.04
Burnley	0.29	0.11
Bury	0.27	0.05
Halifax	0.20	0.05
Huddersfield	0.28	0.08
Liverpool	0.60	0.08
Manchester	0.58	0.07
Oldham	0.33	0.07
Preston	0.29	0.06
Rochdale	0.43	0.04
Salford	0.40	0.07
ST. HELENS	0.41	0.03
Stockport	0.32	0.04
Wallasey	0.41	0.01
Wigan	0.41	0.08

TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY.—The Tuberculosis Dispensary and Chest Clinic is situated at Bank House, Claughton Street, St. Helens, and is controlled by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, the administrative and clinical work being under the supervision of the Tuberculosis Physician. This Clinic continues to be the centre for the diagnosis, supervision and treatment of the patients living within the County Borough boundary. Full clinical and radiological facilities are available, and during 1950 there were 2,072 attendances, an increase of 426 on the previous year. A further 298 attended for pneumothorax and pneumoperitoneum treatment. Particulars of the St. Helens cases on the Tuberculosis Register are shown in Table 9.

INSTITUTIONAL TREATMENT.—The word 'Sanatorium' is no longer in common use for designating those institutions in which treatment for tuberculosis is carried out. Eccleston Hall Sanatorium is now known officially as 'Eccleston Hall Hospital,' but remains the local hospital for the treatment of both pulmonary and non-pulmonary tuberculosis. While the majority of inpatients are from the County Borough, there are a small number admitted from outside the area. Better facilities now exist for St. Helens patients not wishing to have treatment locally, to obtain admission to any of the institutions of the Region.

Eccleston Hall Hospital has accommodation for 75 patients, and an average of 15 beds is allocated for the treatment and observation of children. The Hospital school provides education for such of these children as are fit to attend. Bedside tuition is available for the others.

In addition to the usual recreation rooms for adults, there is a well-equipped workshop for handicrafts and occupational therapy.

Full facilities exist for all routine treatment, but cases requiring major thoracic surgery are temporarily transferred to units at Broadgreen, Barrowmore and Aintree hospitals. During 1950, 91 St. Helens patients were admitted to Eccleston Hall Hospital, 59 were discharged, and 12 died. During the year 62 St. Helens patients were treated in other hospitals of the Liverpool Region,

Table 9.
Register of St. Helens cases of Tuberculosis during 1950.

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary
1. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 1/1/1950.....	503	176
2. No. of cases added to the Register during 1950—		
(i) Formal Notifications	104	16
(ii) New cases coming to knowledge of Medical Officer of Health from other sources—		
(a) From Local Death Returns	5	—
(b) From Registrar General's Death Returns (transferable deaths)	1	—
(c) Posthumous Notifications	—	—
(d) Transfers from other areas.....	9	1
(e) Other sources	—	—
3. No. of cases removed from Register during year—		
(a) Recovered	21	12
(b) Deaths—		
(i) Certified as due to Tuberculosis	46	4
(ii) Other Causes	12	3
(c) Transferred to other areas or lost sight of.....	30	16
4. No. of cases on Tuberculosis Register on 31/12/1950	513	158

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE.

The Care and After-Care Sub-Committee of the Health Committee, constituted in 1949, held its first meeting in July, 1950, and subsequent monthly meetings were held. The Sub-Committee consists of the following :—

5 members of the Health Committee,

One representative from each of the following bodies :—

The National Assistance Board,

The Ministry of Labour and National Service,

The British Legion,

The Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Families Association.

The specialised knowledge of these four co-opted members has proved of great assistance in the work of the Sub-Committee.

TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—Regarding tuberculosis, new measures approved by the Committee during the year were as follows :—

Provision of Milk as Extra Nourishment.—Extra milk was provided to selected cases chosen by the Tuberculosis Officer. In case of necessity a remission of charge was made according to a scale approved by the Local Authority, which is on a slightly more generous basis than the scale for this purpose suggested by the Association of Municipal Corporations. Under this scheme ten patients were provided with free milk during the year.

Provision of Nursing Requisites.—Under arrangements approved by the Health Committee a scheme was set up to hold in stock the following articles, namely, air rings, urinals, rubber sheeting, bed pans and bed rests for issue to patients being nursed at home. Once again issue of these articles was made in accordance with charges approved by the Committee.

The issue of nursing requisites, was also arranged, where possible, through the St. Helens District Nursing Association and the St. Helens branch of the British Red Cross Association.

Home Shelters.—During the year the Sub-Committee paid for the installation of heating units in two shelters already on loan to tuberculous patients by the Local Authority. In both cases the patients bore the cost of current consumed.

During the year the Welfare Officer advised and assisted patients and relatives attending the Tuberculosis Dispensary. Weekly visits were paid to Eccleston Hall Hospital by the Welfare Officer in order to help in-patients with personal problems. Close contact with statutory bodies under the various medical treatment and welfare Acts was maintained, and the assistance and help of voluntary organisations in the town proved of great value in dealing with special problems. Some notes on this work are given below :—

Housing.—In August 1950, a consultation was held between the Housing Manager, the Tuberculosis Physician and the Welfare Officer, and on this occasion the list of tuberculous patients in need of re-housing was reviewed. Details of the position in 1950 are given below :—

Tuberculous patients on the Housing List of the Local Authority—1/1/1950	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	66
New cases added to List	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	31
Allocations of Council houses	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Number of patients finding their own accommodation	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Number of cases where the patient died	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Total on the T.B. Housing List—31/12/50	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	72

Ministry of Labour.—As in previous years the co-operation between the Chest Clinic Staff and the Disablement Rehabilitation Officer proved very successful.

The numbers of tuberculous patients added to the Disablement Register during 1950 were as follows :—

Female tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	5
Male tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	14
Patients were placed in employment as follows :—							
Female tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Male tuberculous patients	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	20

National Assistance Board.—Patients suffering a loss of income in order to undergo treatment for pulmonary tuberculosis and thus eligible for the higher rate of allowance, were referred to the Board as a matter of routine. Exceptional Needs Grants were made in 8 cases.

British Red Cross Society.

Ex-Servicemen Pensioner Patients.—Thirty-six recommendations were made for invalid food parcels to the Emergency Help Service of the above Society during the year, and parcels were provided in each case.

Civilian Patients.—The Civilian Welfare Department of the local branch of the above Society supplied 48 Dominion food parcels to civilian patients.

NON-TUBERCULOUS PATIENTS.—During the year special measures were carried out on behalf of two cases of paraplegia resulting from spinal accidents and discharged home from the special orthopaedic hospital where they had been in-patients for many years. In one case an exchange of house was affected so that the patient could have adequate toilet and bedroom accommodation on the ground floor and the specialised attention necessary for his disability could be given with reasonable ease.

In both these cases structural alterations of the house were found necessary. In one case a new door was made between the parlour and the living room so that the patient could be easily wheeled from one room to the other, a ramp was also built at the back door to allow the patient's invalid chair to be taken outside the house. In the other case the door into the back yard was widened and a ramp was built from the kitchen to the verandah.

Nursing equipment was issued on loan to these patients in accordance with the scheme approved by the Sub-Committee. The specialised articles necessary for these cases included the following :—

- 2 Dunlopillo mattresses
- 2 Overhead pulleys
- 18 Feather pillows
- 1 Dunlopillo cushion
- 4 yards rubber sheeting
- 4 fracture boards
- 7 hair mattresses
- 1 bed cradle
- 2 air rings
- 1 bed pan
- 1 urinal

GENERAL.

Fares.—The Sub-Committee agreed to authorise the Medical Officer of Health to make suitable payments in necessitous cases towards travelling expenses of relatives visiting patients in distant hospitals. However, the cases arising in 1950 proved to be eligible for help from the National Assistance Board.

Voluntary Fund.—Several members of the Care and After-Care Sub-Committee agreed to assist the Welfare Officer and the Tuberculosis Health Visitor, with the formation of a voluntary fund. This fund is to be placed at the disposal of the Care and After-Care Committee to assist patients in ways beyond the scope of the Local Authority in its official capacity.

VIII.—VENEREAL DISEASES.

The Special Treatment Centre is administered by the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board, but male and female attendants at the Centre continued to be provided by the Corporation under agency arrangements.

The following statement shows the number of cases dealt with at the Centre during the year 1950, in comparison with the previous year.

This includes cases from outside the Borough who may receive treatment at the St. Helens Centre.

	1949		1950	
	M	F	M	F
1. No. of cases under treatment or observation on 1st January	65	40	55	58
2. No. of new cases (including cases previously removed from the register who returned for further observation or treatment)	132	72	100	66
3. No. of cases discharged after completion of treatment or transferred to other centres or ceased to attend	142	54	93	60
4. No. of cases remaining under treatment or observation on 31st December	55	58	62	64
5. No. of attendances :—				
(a) For consultation or treatment by Medical Officers	1105	896	576	868
(b) For intermediate treatments	402	236	385	348

Table 10 shows the number of cases of definite venereal disease treated for the first time at the Centre during each of the past ten years. This table excludes cases which had received treatment previously at other Centres, and also cases removed from the register in previous years who returned for treatment or observation for the same infection.

Table 10.

Number of new cases of Venereal Diseases dealt with during 10 years, 1941 to 1950 :

Year	Syphilis		Soft Chancre		Gonorrhoea		Total
	M	F	M	F	M	F	
1941	3	6	—	—	22	12	43
1942	11	7	—	—	28	13	59
1943	11	13	—	—	39	41	104
1944	21	28	—	—	27	29	105
1945	18	40	2	—	33	19	112
1946	23	20	—	—	76	12	131
1947	22	13	—	—	62	16	113
1948	25	25	—	—	53	9	112
1949	14	15	—	—	21	9	59
1950	4	7	—	—	17	1	29

During 1949 an investigation was carried out in an effort to survey the extent of the venereal disease problem in St. Helens, and also to ascertain, if possible, sources of infection with a view to instituting any special remedial measures which might be required.

Further inquiries in connection with this investigation were continued during 1950, and the findings were as follows:—

1. During the year 91 male cases and 56 female cases attended the clinic for the first time. The following statement shows how these cases were introduced to treatment at the Centre:

<i>Introduced by</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
General Practitioners	34	14
Male V.D. Clinic	—	5
M. and C. W. Clinics	—	7
Parent	4	8
Daughter	—	1
Moral Welfare Societies, Probation Officers, etc.	—	15
Self	53	6
Totals	91	56

It will be noted that the contrast observed in 1949 in the percentage of male and female cases who presented themselves for examination on their own initiative, was also apparent in 1950, when 58.2% of male cases needed no outside introduction to treatment whereas the corresponding percentage of female cases was only 10.7%.

2. Contact Tracing.

Cases of Venereal Disease of less than one year's infection, which received treatment at the St. Helens Special Treatment Centre during 1950.

Disease	Total No. of cases	Source of Infection					
		Marital	Friend	Pick-up			
				Street	Public House	Other sources (or not divulged)	
Male Clinic :							
Syphilis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gonorrhoea	17	3	1	3	7	3	
Female Clinic :							
Syphilis	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Gonorrhoea	1	1	—	—	—	—	
Totals	22	4	1	3	7	7	

3. The following list of geographical sources of infection shows that of those identified a substantial proportion originated outside St. Helens.

Town, etc.	Syphilis		Gonorrhoea	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
St. Helens	—	—	6	—
Marital	—	—	3	1
Liverpool	1	—	4	—
Oxford	—	—	1	—
Rainford	—	—	1	—
Casual on Road	—	—	1	—
Not stated	—	2	—	—
Winton	—	—	1	—
Gretna Green	1	—	—	—
	2	2	17	1

4. Follow-up Work.

The problem of following-up cases who have defaulted in treatment or observation is dealt with by correspondence and personal visits by the Female and Male V.D. Welfare Officers.

Particulars of defaulters and action taken during the year are shown below :

	Syphilis	Gonorrhoea	Non-Venereal Cases	Total
Male Clinic.				
No. of defaulters	23	6	2	31
No. persuaded to re-attend	21	4	—	25
Female Clinic.				
No. of defaulters	34	4	12	50
No. persuaded to re-attend	24	4	6	34

IX.—MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Care of Mothers and Young Children.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.—Under Section 203 of the Public Health Act, 1936, 2,049 live births and 61 still-births were notified during 1950. In respect of these, 2,070 notifications were received from midwives and 40 from doctors. The corresponding figures for 1949 were 2,017 live births and 71 still-births, 1,985 notified by midwives and 103 by doctors.

The total number of live births registered as belonging to St. Helens was 2,019, giving a birth rate of 17.9 per 1,000 of the population for the year 1950. The corresponding rates over the past 5 years were respectively 20.3 in 1945 22.2 in 1946, 25.2 in 1947, 21.3 in 1948, and 17.9 in 1949.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.—During 1950 the death occurred of 78 infants under the age of one year, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate for that year of 38.6 per 1,000 live births. The Infantile Mortality Rate for 1950 is the lowest yet recorded in the Borough. The corresponding rates during the preceding five years were 60.1 in 1945, 59.9 in 1946, 69.8 in 1947, 60.9 in 1948 and 41.5 in 1949. The average for the five years, 1946-1950 was 54.1. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for 1950 was 29.8 per 1,000 births.

The principal causes of these deaths during 1950 were :—

Premature birth	29
Congenital malformations	15
Pneumonia	5
Bronchitis	1
Gastro-Enteritis	15
Meningococcal Meningitis	1
Whooping Cough	1
Tuberculosis	1
Other causes	10
 Total	78

As compared with 22 in 1949, the figure of 29 in 1950 showed an increase in the number of deaths due to premature birth. Fuller details are given later in the Report in the special paragraph dealing with the care of premature infants. There was a decrease in the number of deaths due to Congenital Malformations. During the latter part of 1950 the Maternity and Child Welfare Service co-operated with the Ministry of Health in the national enquiry into the incidence of congenital defects in infants. This enquiry is still in course of investigation.

The number of deaths due to respiratory diseases showed a decrease, indicating the value of new anti-biotic drugs in the treatment of these diseases in infants.

STILL-BIRTHS.—The number of still-births registered as belonging to the Borough was 61. All still-births are investigated, and the cause of intra-uterine death was attributable to the following conditions :—

Prematurity	20
Toxaemia of Pregnancy	16
Breech Delivery	8
Placenta Praevia	1
Rhesus Negative factor	1
Hydrocephaly	2
Anencephaly	3
Prolapsed Cord	1
Delayed Labour	2
Cause not known	7
 Total	61

MATERNAL DEATHS.—During 1950, four deaths were registered as resulting from childbirth or accidents of pregnancy, giving a maternal mortality rate of 1.92 per 1,000 live and still-births. (The rate for 1949 was 1.45 per 1,000 live and still-births).

The cause of death in the four patients was Rheumatic Endocarditis, causing heart failure before the birth of the child, Accidental Haemorrhage due to Pre-Eclamptic Toxaemia of pregnancy, Paralytic Ileus due to Generalised Peritonitis following normal childbirth, and Fulminating Eclampsia. All these deaths occurred in hospitals in Group 3 of the Liverpool Regional Hospital Board.

The maternal mortality for England and Wales as a whole was 0.86 per 1,000 live and still births.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

Puerperal Pyrexia.—No case of puerperal pyrexia was notified during the year.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.—During 1950, 1 case was notified. This case was removed to hospital, and recovered with vision unimpaired.

Pemphigus.—No cases were reported during the year.

Other Infectious Diseases.—The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases which occurred in children under 5 years of age, and the deaths resulting therefrom.

	Under 1 year		1—5 years	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	—	—	62	—
Diphtheria	—	—	1	—
Measles	23	—	201	—
Whooping Cough	33	1	259	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	1	—	—	—
Meningococcal Infections	2	1	2	—

CHILD WELFARE CLINICS.—Clinics for children under 5 years of age are held on 9 sessions weekly at 8 centres.

During the year, plans were passed for the adaptation of part of the former Public Assistance Building in Hardshaw Street into a Maternity and Child Welfare Centre, to serve the central portion of the town, and to replace the existing centre at the Town Hall, as these premises are proving to be inadequate for the purpose.

Approval in principle was given during the year by the Ministry of Health to the proposal to provide a new maternity and child welfare centre in the Sutton Manor area. This is an urgent project, as the existing premises are most unsatisfactory. A plot of land has been selected as a site for this proposed centre, and as soon as it becomes possible to acquire this land, the work of erection will be proceeded with.

It will be necessary soon for new premises to be built on the new East Lancashire Road Housing Estate.

63.6% of the notified births in 1950 attended Child Welfare Clinics, and the number of children under 1 year of age who attended was satisfactory.

Table 11 shows the attendances at the various Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics during the year 1950, in comparison with the year 1949.

Table 11.
Attendances at Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics.

	1949	1950
Child Welfare Clinics.		
No. of children who attended for the first time during the year and who, on the date of their first attendance, were :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	1273	1284
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	338	504
Percentage of births represented by the number of children who on the date of their first attendance were under 1 year of age	63.1	63.6
Number who attended and at the end of the year were :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	1084	1079
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	1738	1505
No. of attendances by children :—		
(i) under 1 year of age	10778	11342
(ii) between the ages of 1 and 5 years	3025	2333
Ante-natal Clinics.		
No. of expectant mothers who attended	1629	1651
No. of attendances by expectant mothers	7693	7939
Percentage of total births (live and still) represented by the number of expectant mothers who attended either the Maternity and Child Welfare Centres or the Ante-natal Clinics	78.0	79.4
Post-Natal Examinations at Ante-Natal Clinics:—		
No. of Mothers who attended	—	86
No. of attendances	—	86
Gynaecological and Post-natal Clinic.		
No. of Mothers who attended	247	188
No. of attendances	304	303
Sunlight Clinic.		
No. of Children who attended	175	139
No. of attendances	2831	2753

Immunisation against Diphtheria is carried out at the Child Welfare Clinics as well as at the special sessions held at the School Clinic in Claughton Street, and at the outlying district clinics.

ANTE-NATAL CLINICS.—At the end of the year, special ante-natal clinics were being held 9 times weekly at 8 centres.

In 79.4% of the total notified births during 1950 the mothers had attended one or other of these clinics.

Expectant mothers are now having routine blood tests carried out at these clinics. The tests are for Blood Grouping, Rhesus factor and Kahn reaction. During the year, 999 specimens were sent for examination. Of these, 813 were Rhesus Positive, 176 were Rhesus Negative, 10 Genotype reaction, and 3 had Positive Kahn reactions also. When a positive Kahn Reaction is obtained, a confirmatory Wassermann reaction is then carried out. Following this procedure, it was found that 2 had positive Wassermann reactions, and 1 a doubtful Wassermann reaction which was later proved to be negative. These three patients were referred to the Special Treatment Clinic at Claughton Street for further special examination and treatment.

Of the 176 patients who were Rhesus Negative in type, only 3 had Rhesus Antibodies present. The importance of this test lies in the fact that the doctor in charge of the confinement is forewarned that the baby may need an exchange transfusion immediately after birth. Rhesus Negative blood may be obtained from the Regional Blood Transfusion Centre before the confinement in readiness for either the mother or the baby. In these three patients, two of the babies needed to have an exchange transfusion.

GYNAECOLOGICAL AND POST-NATAL CLINIC.—This clinic is held once a week at the Town Hall Centre and serves the double purpose of investigation of gynaecological conditions associated with pregnancy and as a clinic for post-natal supervision.

During 1950, 125 patients visited this clinic for post-natal examinations. Post-natal supervision is, however, also carried out at the Infant Welfare Clinics and at the Ante-natal Clinics held in the outlying districts, and the total number of women who received special post-natal supervision was 274.

The number of gynaecological patients attending this clinic was 63 (145 attendances).

Patients who needed operative treatment were referred to the out-patient departments of the local hospitals.

At this clinic patients may also receive advice on Birth Control methods when such is desirable for medical reasons. The following statement indicates the number of patients to whom such advice was given, and the reasons :

Renal Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Cardiac Disease	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Tuberculosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Severe Anaemia	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
Thyrotoxicosis	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Asthma	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
									—
								Total	18
									—

6 patients sought advice during 1950 because of infertility, and 7 patients attended in the early stage of pregnancy.

SUNLIGHT CLINIC.—To this clinic, which is held twice weekly, are referred weakly and debilitated children likely to benefit from ultra violet therapy. During 1950, 139 children made 2,753 attendances for irradiation. All the children attending this clinic benefited by the treatment they received.

MILK FOR MOTHERS AND INFANTS.—With the continuance of the National Milk Scheme, the issue of dried milk through the Council's scheme for milk for mothers and infants was limited to special cases for whom the National Scheme was not altogether satisfactory.

During 1950, approximately 2,414 lbs of dried milk were distributed through the Council's scheme.

DENTAL TREATMENT.—Report by Senior Dental Surgeon on the dental treatment provided for expectant and nursing mothers and young children during 1950.

(a) **Numbers provided with Dental Treatment :**

	Examined	Needing treatment	Treated	Made dentally fit
Expectant and Nursing Mothers	161	159	146	104
Children under Five	181	172	164	164

(b) **Forms of Dental Treatment Provided :**

	Extractions	Anaesthetics		Filings	Scalings or Scaling & Gum Treatment	Silver Nitrate Treatment	Dressings	Radiography	Dentures provided	
		Local	General						Complete	Partial
Expectant and Nursing Mothers ...	760	38	121	21	50	—	6	1	38	23
Children under Five ...	364	—	156	14	—	—	—	—	—	—

As in previous years, it was only possible to devote two sessions each week to the treatment of expectant and nursing mothers and pre-school children.

The number of mothers made dentally fit (104) does not include 17 mothers who are awaiting artificial dentures after completing the necessary extractions. There is little difference between the number of mothers examined and treated in 1950, as compared with 1949.

The number of pre-school children examined and treated during the year exceeded the previous year's total by approximately 20% and included 3 children who were treated at Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital.

MINOR AILMENTS.—During 1950, 27 children were referred to and received treatment at one or other of the Council's Minor Ailment Clinics.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN.—Crippling defects in children under 5 years of age are dealt with under the Council's Orthopaedic Scheme, which provides periodic supervision by the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and the Physio-therapist.

During 1950, 284 maternity and child welfare cases were dealt with at the Orthopaedic Clinic, 1 case being admitted to hospital for operation.

DAY NURSERY.—This Nursery is open from 6-30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday to Friday ; and 6-30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday. Accommodation is limited to children whose mothers are working. During the year, this accommodation was fully utilised.

From August to October, 11 cases of Measles were notified, and during December, 5 children developed Whooping Cough. Apart from these two outbreaks of infectious disease, the health of the children attending the Nursery was good.

Particulars of attendances, &c. at the Hall Street Day Nursery during 1950 are shown below :—

No. of approved places at Day Nursery		No. of children on the register at the end of the year		Average daily attendance during the year	
0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years	0-2 years	2-5 years
14	16	12	21	14.6	7.4

Provision of more Day Nursery accommodation is still needed. The Nursery at Hall Street has filled a temporary role of providing accommodation for 30 children, but these premises are inadequate for a town the size of St. Helens, and it is considered that nurseries are also needed in other areas of the town.

A proposal for the provision of further day nursery accommodation by the use of premises in Lacey Street, Thatto Heath, was disapproved by the Ministry of Health. The Minister stated that "whilst the premises are well situated for the purpose of a day nursery the small number of children who could be accommodated and the extent of the adaptations which would be necessary to meet even less than the present minimum requirements for day nurseries, render it doubtful whether the proposal of the Council would be an economic proposition." The premises were purchased, however, for Maternity and Child Welfare Centre purposes. It is hoped that a proposal to erect and equip a new day nursery at Bedford Street, Parr (adjoining the Trading Estate) will meet with more success when the scheme is considered shortly by the Ministry.

THE CARE OF PREMATURE INFANTS.—Since 1944 special efforts have been directed towards preserving life in premature and/or immature infants. The birth weight is stated on every notification of birth form, and in those cases born at home where the birth weight was less than 5 lbs. 8 ozs. a special visit was immediately made by the Supervisor of Midwives, and if necessary arrangements made for admission to hospital. For infants remaining at home, special basket cots fitted with special lining, mattress and bedding, a Belcroy feeding bottle and hot water bottles are available, and have proved of value.

During 1950, a total of 162 premature and/or immature babies were born in the Borough. Of these babies, 29 died before 28 days. The following table gives details concerning these 162 premature infants.

Premature and/or Immature Babies, 1950.

BORN AT HOME

Birth Weight	Transferred to Hospital.	Remaining at Home			Grand Total
		Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd and 8th day	Survived 28 days	
Under 3 lbs.	3	—	—	—	3
3-4 lbs.	4	1	1	3	9
4-5½ lbs.	8	—	—	31	39
Totals	15	1	1	34	51

BORN IN NURSING HOMES

Under 3 lbs.	3-4 lbs.	4-5½ lbs.	BORN IN NURSING HOMES			Grand Total
			Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd & 8th day	Survived 28 days	
Under 3 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 lbs.	2	—	—	—	—	2
4-5½ lbs.	—	—	—	—	4	4
Totals	2	—	—	—	4	6

* DETAILS OF CASES, BORN AT HOME AND IN NURSING HOMES, AND TRANSFERRED TO HOSPITAL

Birth Weight	Died in first 24 hours	Died between 2nd & 8th day	Died between 8th & 28th day	Survived 28 days		Total
				1	2	
Under 3 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5½ lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	9	1	5	17	17

BORN IN HOSPITAL

Under 3 lbs.	3-4 lbs.	4-5½ lbs.	BORN IN HOSPITAL			Total
			4	2	1	
Under 3 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
3-4 lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
4-5½ lbs.	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	8	6	1	1	—	105

When these infants are discharged from hospital, or when the midwife has ceased to attend to those born at home, the Health Visitor concerned is immediately notified, and pays special follow-up visits.

THE CARE OF ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.—As in previous years, special consideration was given to the care of the unmarried mother and her child, and arrangements were continued whereby two places are reserved in the St. Monica's Home, Liverpool, for cases from St. Helens, and places are taken in other Homes as required. All cases of unmarried expectant mothers coming

to the knowledge of the Department through Health Visitors, Municipal Midwives, Moral Welfare Workers and other agencies, are notified to the Medical Officer in charge of Maternity and Child Welfare Services, who, after investigation, decides which cases can be dealt with at home or through local hospitals, and which cases can most suitably be dealt with by periods of residence in suitable homes. The mother is admitted to the Home about two months before the expected confinement and remains there after confinement until suitable arrangements can be made for the after-care of herself and the child. During 1950 28 unmarried mothers were assisted under these arrangements.

In the majority of cases it was found that the parents were willing to keep the girl at home during the pregnancy if some arrangements could be made for the confinement.

The following list gives the places of confinement :—

Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8
County Hospital, Whiston	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Parents' Homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	9
Hospital in Liverpool	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Diocesan or other Voluntary Homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
							Total	28

Mothers entering Homes are assisted by the Corporation in the payment of their fees. All the unmarried mothers were helped to take out Affiliation Orders.

Every effort was made in all cases to enable the mother to keep the child with her in her parents' home, and in many cases these efforts were successful.

The following is a summary of the disposal of the children born during the year :—

Cared for by grandparents while mother goes to work	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Cared for by mother	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	16
Adopted	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Seeking adoption	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
In Institutions	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
Moved out of St. Helens	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
						Total	28	

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION.—The Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital and the St. Helens Hospital are now administered by the St. Helens and District Hospital Management Committee. There are 30 maternity beds in the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, and 17 maternity beds in the maternity block of the St. Helens Hospital, and when accommodation in either of these two hospitals is not available, St. Helens patients are referred to the County Hospital, Whiston.

Patients book for the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital at the Council's Ante-natal Clinics, and for the St. Helens Hospital, at the hospital itself. Emergency cases are admitted to both hospitals when beds are available.

During 1950, 637 births took place in the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, 425 occurred in the St. Helens Hospital and 217 in the County Hospital, Whiston.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.—During 1950 there were 4 private Nursing Homes registered in St. Helens with accommodation for 11 maternity cases and 4 medical cases. The number of maternity patients delivered in these Homes was 167.

X.—MIDWIFERY SERVICE.

MUNICIPAL MIDWIFERY SERVICE.—The staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during 1950 was fifteen Municipal Domiciliary Midwives and one Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. These midwives work from their own homes and are grouped in districts to allow for relief duties. The following table gives a summary of the work done by the staff of the Municipal Midwifery Service during 1950.

Number of cases attended :—	
as midwife	673
as maternity nurse	92
	—
	Total
	765
Number of live births	736
Number of still-births	19
Number of abortions	18
Number of cases in which midwife sent for medical assistance	149
	(22.1%)
Supervisor's visits and inspections	65

During the year two municipal midwives attended Post Graduate Courses.

During the year Gas and Air Analgesia was given to 289 patients, a percentage of 38.2 of the total number of live and still-births. All the domiciliary midwives are now qualified to administer Gas and Air Analgesia, and for their use, six portable sets of Minnitt's Gas and Air Analgesia Apparatus are kept at the Central Ambulance Depot, one of which is despatched from that depot to the patient's home by car immediately on request by the Midwife. The use of this Analgesia is being urged and encouraged in the service.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.—In 1950, 41 midwives notified their intention to practise within the Borough. Of these 5 were in private practice, 15 were employed by the Local Health Authority, 12 were engaged at the Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital, and 9 in the Maternity Block of the St. Helens Hospital.

The supervision and inspection of midwives is carried out by Medical Officers and by the Non-Medical Supervisor of Midwives. During 1950, 30 visits for inspection and supervision were paid to private midwives and 95 visits to the Council's midwives were carried out.

MATERNITY CASES ATTENDED BY MIDWIVES.—The following table shows the extent of the work carried out by the various classes of midwives in St. Helens during 1950.

Number of Maternity Cases in the Area of the Local Supervising Authority attended by Midwives during 1950.

		As Midwives	As Maternity Nurses
(a) Domiciliary Midwives.			
Midwives employed by the Authority		673	92
Midwives in Private Practice		32	8
(b) Midwives in Institutions.			
Midwives employed by Hospital Management Committees or Boards of Governors under the National Health Service Act.	St. Helens Hospital	365	60
	Cowley Hill Maternity Hospital	625	12
Midwives in Private Practice		2	165

XI.—HEALTH VISITING.

The duties of the Health Visitors now include the general health welfare of the family as a whole, as well as the specialised duties connected with the School Medical Services and the Care of Mothers and Young Children. These extra duties mean that more time has to be given to home visiting in connection with the welfare of old people, the follow-up of patients discharged home from hospital, enquiries regarding home conditions of mothers requesting confinement in hospital in addition to the routine and special visits required to be paid to mothers and young children under school age, and home visits directly connected with School Medical Inspections. The Health Visitors also staff the various Ante-Natal Clinics and Child Welfare Clinics in the Borough, and are in attendance at the School Medical Inspections.

During the year the staff establishment was eighteen Health Visitors and one Superintendent Health Visitor. In addition 2 Student Health Visitors were given their practical training in St. Helens, and attended the Liverpool University for their theoretical training.

During the year six Health Visitors attended week-end Refresher Courses and two Health Visitors attended Residential Post-Certificate courses.

The following statement shows the home visits paid by Health Visitors during the year :

To expectant mothers

(a) first visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	366
(b) subsequent visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	257

To infants under one year

(a) first visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1894
(b) subsequent visits .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	8156

To children aged one to five years

24600

To other cases

4474

Total

39747

XII.—HOME NURSING SERVICE.

During 1950, the Home Nursing Service was carried out by the St. Helens and District Nursing Association acting as Agents of the Local Health Authority. This service is now under the direct supervision of the re-organised Committee of the Nursing Association on which is full representation from the Local Health Authority.

The Association has a staff establishment of one Superintendent, 2 Assistant Superintendents and 20 nurses. The nurses paid 81,259 home nursing visits during the year, and there were 2,906 new cases attended to during this period.

XIII.—HOME HELP SERVICE.

The Home Help Service operating in St. Helens provides help in cases of maternity, sickness, convalescence, old age and infirmity, or any emergency in the household due to illness.

At the 31st December, 1950, there were twenty-eight part-time Home Helps working an average 27 hour week. The Home Help Organiser attended a Refresher Course organised by the National Association of Home Help Organisers during the year.

During the period 1st January, 1950, to 31st December, 1950, the Home Helps attended 148 cases, particulars of which are shown below :—

Cases attended	Total No.	Full Time	Part Time	Full Fee	Part Fee	Free	% of Cases
Confinement Cases.							
Domiciliary	32	30	2	4	28	0	22
Hospital Delivery and Post-Natal	12	0	12	11	1	0	8
Sickness Cases.							
Mother with Young Children	15	3	12	5	8	2	10
Chronic	22	0	22	9	9	4	15
Acute	3	0	3	2	0	1	2
Tuberculosis	3	0	3	0	2	1	2
Mental	1	0	1	0	1	0	1
Old Age and Infirmitiy	60	1	59	10	10	40	40
(Of these 27 were living alone)							

Home Help in these cases was recommended by :—

Council of Social Service	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	4
Maternity and Child Welfare Service	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	40
Private Practitioners	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	46
Hospitals	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	7
Society for the Blind	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2
District Nursing Association	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	10
Sanitary Dept.	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
Church Welfare Worker	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1
National Assistance Board	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	6
Housing Department	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	12
Personal Application	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	13
Tuberculosis Dispensary	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
Private Nursing Homes	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	3
						Total	148

The following statement shows the visits paid by the Home Help Organiser during the year :—

No. of primary visits to cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	206
No. of return visits to cases	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1190
No. of visits to Home Helps	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	653
					Total	2049

The standard fee during the year for Home Help Services, as laid down by the Health Committee, was 2/- per hour. Remission of this fee in part or whole is based on an approved scale.

Total fees collected by Home Help Organiser during the year :— £847/17/8.

XIV.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.—The municipal abattoir remains in sole use by the Ministry of Food, but the inspection and supervision of all meat at the abattoir continues to be carried out by the Corporation's Abattoir Superintendent, who is a qualified meat inspector. Table 12 gives the result of such inspection.

The agreements with the St. Helens Retail Butchers' Buying Committee and the North Western Wholesale Meat Supply Association Limited, for the use of the Cold Stores at the Abattoir, were continued throughout the year.

Improvements to the Abattoir were carried out during the year. These included the provision of concrete combined feeding and watering troughs and improvements to the hot-water installation.

In addition to the Public Abattoir there is one private slaughterhouse licensed in the Borough for the slaughter of pigs only, but owing to the present operation of the scheme for the control of meat and livestock its use has been temporarily discontinued.

Under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933, 2 licences were granted and 31 licences were renewed to slaughtermen employed at the Public Abattoir.

At the end of the year, 198 premises were registered under Section 127 of the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, for the preparation or manufacture of potted, pressed, pickled or preserved meat, fish, or other food intended for the purpose of sale.

During 1950, 8,599 visits were made by Inspectors to shops, stalls and other places where food is prepared or stored, as compared with 8,832 during 1949, and in 32 instances minor offences against various Acts and Orders were discovered and 186 nuisances or defects found.

The following are the total quantities of various classes of foodstuffs which were condemned at the abattoir or in shops, etc., during the year owing to being diseased or unsound :—

	lbs.
Meat	355,655
Canned Goods	15,506
Fruit	861
Fish	733
Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	1,055
 Total	 373,810

Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924.—During the year, 6 infringements of these Regulations were found. These mainly referred to premises requiring whitewashing or with unsuitable receptacles for trimmings and refuse. In all instances the unsatisfactory conditions were remedied after service of notice.

Merchandise Marks Act, 1926.—During the year, 1,337 inspections were made under the Merchandise Marks Act, 1926, and 11 warnings for minor infringements were given.

Food Hawkers.—Section 47 of the St. Helens Corporation (Electricity and General Powers) Act, 1948, requires the registration of any person (other than a person keeping open shop) who sells, offers or exposes for sale food from any vehicle or receptacle. The section also requires the registration of storage accommodation for any food intended for any of these purposes.

At the end of the year 31 persons and 46 separate sets of premises were registered under this section.

75 inspections of these premises were made during the year.

Table 12.
CARCASSES INSPECTED AT PUBLIC ABATTOIR—YEAR 1950.

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2836	3696	4300	19115	1312
Number inspected	2836	3696	4300	19115	1312
Condemned :—					
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis :—					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	7	65	254	43	15
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	1275	1061	9	1760	316
(iii) Percentage of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis	45.2	30.4	6.1	9.4	25.2
(b) Tuberculosis only:—					
(i) Whole carcasses condemned	16	132	24	—	1
(ii) Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	397	1970	9	—	60
(iii) Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	14.5	56.8	0.7	—	4.6

Clean Food Campaign.—There are approximately 900 food premises of all kinds in the Borough.

The arrangements for the inspection of these premises and of all foodstuffs therein remained as in previous years. These arrangements include the employment of a Specialist Food Inspector who has been engaged solely on this work since his appointment more than ten years ago.

There is little doubt that the constant supervision thus maintained has been instrumental in ensuring a high hygienic standard for all food premises.

Much, however, still remains to be done in the education of those engaged in the handling of foodstuffs in the principles of food hygiene.

In order to meet this need, display cards setting out simple rules for the prevention of food infections have been distributed to all food traders.

During the afternoon and evening of September 4th of this year, film demonstrations were held at the Gas Showrooms, Cotham Street, St. Helens, at which the following films were displayed :—

- “ Another case of Poisoning.”
- “ Fly about the House.”
- “ Catering.”

These demonstrations were well attended by workers in school and industrial canteens, and by other workers in food trades.

At the end of the year preparations were well advanced for the holding of a Clean Food Exhibition and for the organisation of classes of instruction in Food Hygiene.

MILK AND MILK PRODUCTS.

At the end of the year there were registered :—

- 21 persons as distributors of milk from dairy premises ;
- 180 persons as distributors of milk in sealed bottles ; and
- 20 premises as dairies.

A total of 608 visits were paid by the Sanitary Inspectors to these premises during the year. No infringements of the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, or of the above-mentioned Regulations, were found.

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licences were granted during the year under these Regulations :—

Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation “ STERILISED ”	184
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation “ PASTEURISED ”	52
Dealers' Licences authorising the use of the special designation “ TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED) ”	20
Dealer's (Pasteuriser's) Licence authorising the use of the special designation “ PASTEURISED ”	1
Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation “ STERILISED ”	3
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation “ PASTEURISED ”	3
Supplementary Licences authorising the use of the special designation “ TUBERCULIN TESTED MILK (PASTEURISED) ”	3

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under these Regulations.

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

The following licence was granted during the year under these Regulations:—

Supplementary Licence authorising the use of the special designation
"TUBERCULIN TESTED"

No fees are charged by the Council in respect of licences granted under these Regulations.

Biological Examination of Milk.—In the routine examination of milk supplies 29 samples were examined by guinea-pig inoculation for the presence of tubercle bacilli. No sample contained positive evidence of tubercle bacilli.

Bacteriological Examination of Milk.—In addition to the samples of milk taken for examination for tubercle bacilli, 14 samples were also taken for the methylene blue ($4\frac{1}{2}/5\frac{1}{2}$) reduction test.

The results of these examinations show that of 6 samples of tuberculin tested milk, 2 samples (33%) failed to satisfy the methylene blue test required by the Regulations.

One sample of accredited milk taken for bacteriological examination satisfied the methylene blue test. Of 7 samples of ungraded raw milk, 2 (28%) failed to satisfy this test.

303 samples of pasteurised milk were also examined for the methylene blue (30 minutes) test. Of these 2 (0.6%) failed to pass the test.

Examination of Milk for the presence of Phosphatase.—290 samples of milk were also examined during the year for the presence of phosphatase. All samples were reported to have been sufficiently heat treated.

Turbidity Test for Sterilised Milk.—During the year 46 samples were submitted for this test. All were reported to be satisfactory.

Milk-in-Schools Scheme.—All milk now supplied to schools under the Milk-in-Schools Scheme is milk for which a pasteuriser's licence has been granted. Careful supervision is exercised by the Sanitary Staff and frequent samples are taken for chemical examination and for examination for bacterial contamination.

The number of samples taken during 1950 and the results are as follows:—

The chemical analysis of the above samples was mainly carried out by means of the Gerber Test at the Department's own laboratory, and only in doubtful cases are samples examined by the Public Analyst.

Ice Cream Premises.—The following are the particulars at the end of the year of registrations under the St. Helens Corporation Act, 1933, of manufacturers and vendors of ice cream and the premises used by them :—

220 samples of ice cream were taken during the year for bacteriological examination by the Methylene Blue Test.

These samples were taken from manufacturers and vendors whose premises are situate both inside and outside the Borough.

Of the 220 samples taken, 101 were classed as Grade 1 ; 69 as Grade 2 ; 31 as Grade 3 ; 19 as Grade 4.

These results emphasise the need for still more educational work in hygienic methods of ice cream production.

All ice cream manufacturers' premises and plants have now been brought up to a satisfactory hygienic standard. Further, all vehicles used for the sale of unwrapped ice cream have now been provided with satisfactory supplies of hot and cold water and suitable washing facilities.

Very few contraventions of the Ice Cream (Heat Treatment, etc.) Regulations, 1947 to 1951, were found during the year.

Manufacturers and Vendors are generally making a serious effort to comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

During the year, 652 visits of inspection were made to ice cream premises in St. Helens.

FOOD AND DRUGS.

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.—During 1950, 364 formal samples and 170 informal samples of various foods and drugs were submitted to the Public Analyst, and 25 (4.6%) were reported as adulterated.

The percentage of milk samples reported as adulterated during the year was 3.2%.

Legal proceedings were instituted in respect of the following formal samples :—

<i>Article</i>	<i>Particulars of Offence.</i>	<i>Result of legal proceedings.</i>
Beef Sausage	Selling beef sausage which was deficient in meat to the extent of 24%.	Vendor fined £5.
Beef Sausage	Selling beef sausage which was deficient in meat to the extent of 26%.	Vendor fined 10/-.

In addition to the above, warnings were given by the Public Health Com-

mittee in the case of the following formal samples :—

Sample

<i>No.</i>	<i>Article.</i>	<i>Nature of Adulteration or Irregularity.</i>
430	Donald Duck Quenchers	Contravention of Article 3 of the Labelling of Food Order, 1946.
559	Milk	Containing not less than 9% extraneous water.
776	Pork Sausage	Deficient in meat to the extent of 13%.
796	Lemon Cheese	Deficient in fat to the extent of 7.5%.
825	Milk	Deficient in fat to the extent of 10%.
919	Milk	Containing not less than 2.4% extraneous water.
987	Milk	Containing not less than 2.35% extraneous water.
992	Pork Sausage	Deficient in meat to the extent of 16.9%.
993	Pork Sausage	Deficient in meat to the extent of 5.5%.

In the case of fourteen other informal samples no action could be taken by the Department for various reasons.

The Public Health (Condensed Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.
The Public Health (Dried Milk) Regulations, 1923 and 1927.—No infringements of any of these Regulations were found during the year.

Public Health (Preservatives, etc., in Food) Regulations, 1925-1940.—All samples submitted to the Public Analyst under the Food and Drugs Act were also examined for the presence of preservatives.

One infringement of these Regulations was found during the year in respect of a sample of pork sausage Nod. 992. The offender was warned by the Public Health Committee.

Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs Act, 1926.—22 samples of fertilisers or feeding stuffs were taken under the above Act during the year.

One sample of fertiliser and one sample of feeding stuff were reported by the Public Analyst to be not genuine—the vendor was warned in each case. In the case of a further sample of feeding stuff reported to be not genuine, a copy of the Agricultural Analyst's certificate was forwarded to the farmer concerned in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933.—At the end of the year there were 48 persons entered in the Local Authority's list of persons entitled to sell poisons included in Part II of the Poisons List. The number of premises concerned was 67.

66 visits were paid to these premises and no infringements of the Act were found.

Pharmacy and Medicines Act, 1941.—No infringements of the Act were found during the year.

Bakehouses.—There are 93 bakehouses in St. Helens and mechanical power is employed in 74 instances.

369 visits of inspection to the various bakehouses were made during the year and 42 defects were found, most of which were remedied before the end of the year.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

Tuberculosis Order, 1938.—No animals from dairy herds in the Borough were slaughtered under this Order during the year.

Anthrax.—Two cases of suspected Anthrax were reported during the year. In neither case was the disease confirmed.

Swine Fever.—Sixteen cases of suspected Swine Fever were reported. In no instance was the disease confirmed.

Foot and Mouth Disease.—No cases of suspected Foot and Mouth disease were reported during the year.

Markets, Sales and Lairs Order, 1925.—There is one market, situate between 5 and 21 Parr Street, licensed for the sale of animals in St. Helens.

OUTBREAKS OF FOOD POISONING.

During the year four outbreaks of food poisoning occurred in the town. There were 33 notified cases, of which 30 occurred in the third quarter and 3 cases in the fourth quarter of the year. The total number of cases involved in these outbreaks was, however, 360.

Investigations revealed that one outbreak was attributable to salmonella organisms and three to staphylococci.

In addition to the above there were two single cases of food poisoning, the cause being identified in each case.

XV.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.—The water supply is from deep wells and boreholes in new red sandstone at Eccleston Hill, Whiston, Knowsley, Kirkby and Melling, supplemented by a supply from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main, and water from red sandstone above the coal measures at Collins Green. The water from the last-mentioned source is subjected to chlorination and high pressure filtration before distribution.

The water from the deep wells and from Collins Green is hard, the average hardness being 22.6° and 27° respectively, and the hardness of both is reduced to approximately 10.5° by softening processes before distribution. The water from the Liverpool Corporation Rivington Main is soft and is blended with hard water before distribution, so that in its ultimate distribution it also approximates to 10.5° .

There were no new sources of public water supply during the year, but the supply from the Knowsley Pumping Station has been improved by the installation of electrically operated pumping plant in the auxiliary borehole at a deeper level than the existing pumps.

Mains extensions involving a total of 2,830 lineal yards were carried out for the supply of water to the Broad Lane, Cecil Street and Southport Street Housing Sites and from Eccleston Hill to Eccleston Village.

The quality of the water has remained satisfactory and the supply to all parts of the Borough is reasonably adequate. The quantity of water available has been sufficient to meet all requirements during the year. From July onwards the additional supply made available at Knowsley improved the Corporation's own total resources by approximately 10 per cent.

Bacteriological examinations of the water were made at regular intervals at the sources of supply, and at the reservoirs prior to distribution into supply, in all cases after chlorination.

Of the 566 samples taken for bacteriological examination during the year, 524 were classified as Class 1 ; 27 Class 2 ; 6 Class 3 ; and 9 Class 4.

88 samples were taken for chemical analysis and of these 82 were classified as satisfactory without further comment. Comments on other samples were as follows :—

Brown Edge Old Reservoir.

In the report on a sample taken on 9th January, 1950, attention was drawn to the relatively high content of phenolic bodies, probably derived from the break-down of organic matter or the access of a little surface water. (Bact. Class 1).

In the report on another sample taken on 20th February, 1950, nitrogen in the form of free and albuminoid ammonia was rather higher than usual but assuming that the bacteriological condition was satisfactory the water was suitable for domestic use. (Bact. Class 1).

In respect of a further sample taken on 25th September, 1950, the analysis indicated a trace of contamination which was probably adventitious. As the sample was Bact. Class 1 the water was regarded as suitable for domestic purposes.

Rivington Supply.

In the report of a sample taken on 9th January, 1950, attention was drawn to the relatively high concentration of phenols which were derived no doubt from the break-down of organic matter. (Bact. Class 1).

Eccleston Hill.

In the report of a sample taken on 3rd April, 1950, attention was drawn to the rather high chlorine residual. (Bact. Class 1).

In a further sample taken on 18th December, 1950, attention was drawn to the excessive content of free chlorine which was probably caused by a fault in the dosing gear. (Bact. Class 1).

The water supplied has no plumbo-solvent action.

The supply is on the constant system. With only one or two exceptions which receive their supply from stand-pipes, water is supplied directly to all the houses in the Borough from the Corporation's water mains.

All supplies are chlorinated before distribution.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.—The supervision of the pollution of rivers and streams in St. Helens is now carried out by the Lancashire Rivers Board.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.—The extension of the Haresfinch Intercepting Sewer along Carr Mill Road to cater for the Broad Lane Section of the East Lancashire Road Housing Estate has been completed.

The Corporation's Consulting Engineers have submitted their scheme for reconstruction of the Parr Sewage Disposal Works to the Public Health Committee, and the scheme has now been submitted to the Ministry of Local Government and Planning for consideration and approval.

A complete scheme and estimate of cost for the reconstruction of the Sutton Intercepting Sewer have been submitted to the Ministry.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.—Twelve privy middens and ten pail closets were converted to the fresh-water-carriage system during the year. There are still 62 pail closets and 222 privy middens in the Borough serving 62 houses and 260 houses respectively. There are also 43 pail closets and 4 privy middens at various schools and works.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.—No extension or alterations to the cleansing system have been put into operation during the year apart from the extension of the collection area to cover new property in the Borough.

The three refuse tips in use during the year were Kurtz Tip in Jackson Street, Watery Lane Tip and Sutton Moss Tip. The percentage of house refuse disposed of at each was 35%, 60% and 5% respectively. The use of the last named tip has now been discontinued.

HOUSE REFUSE ACCOMMODATION.—In previous annual reports I have stated that consideration was being given by the Public Health Committee to a scheme for the maintenance of dustbins throughout the Borough.

In these reports particulars were given of previous surveys which had been made by the Department. Consequent upon these surveys a detailed scheme was approved during the year for the maintenance of dustbins in three wards of the Borough.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.—Three meetings of the St. Helens and District (Atmospheric Pollution) Joint Consultative Committee were held during the year.

At these meetings a number of local problems in relation to atmospheric pollution were discussed. The activities of this Committee have continued to emphasise the value of close co-operation between industrialists and the local authority.

On the afternoons and evenings of March 9th, 1950, film demonstrations for stokers and boiler-house personnel were held at the Municipal Technical College at which the following films were displayed :—

- (1) Boiler-House Practice.
- (2) Oil Fuel Combustion.
- (3) Furnace Practice.
- (4) C.O₂ and Draught.

These demonstrations were well attended.

Following the demonstrations several attempts have been made to organise classes of instruction in Boiler-House Practice, but a sufficient number of persons have not to the present been induced to enrol. The Committee's efforts in this direction are continuing.

692 observations were taken of industrial chimneys during the year. In 92 instances black smoke was emitted for more than two minutes during the half-hour period of observation. Representations were made with the firms concerned with a view to the diminution of the nuisance.

FACTORIES.—Eight defects were reported by H.M. Inspector of Factories during the year. In addition 18 instances of want of cleanliness and 98 instances of unsuitable or defective sanitary conveniences were also dealt with as a result of sanitary inspections.

A total of 754 visits of inspection were made to factories during 1950.

Table 13 gives particulars of the administrative action taken.

TABLE 13.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors).

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	25	72	3	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	310	672	29	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	8	10	2	—
TOTAL	343	754	34	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they are reckoned as two, three, or more "cases").

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	18	17	—	2	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) insufficient	6	3	—	2	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	92	80	—	4	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	116	100	—	8	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	SECTION 110			SECTION 111		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sec. 110(1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises	Notices Served	Prosecutions
Paper Bags	2	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	2	—	—	—	—	—

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.—The total number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspectors was 61,585. The nature of these inspections is shown in Table 14, and Table 15 contains a list of notices served and the results of such notices.

TABLE 14.
Number and nature of inspections during 1950.

(a) Number of complaints investigated :—	
1. Housing defects	1479
2. Choked and defective drains	772
3. Emission of smoke	20
4. Accumulations of Offensive matter	18
5. Miscellaneous	118
(b) Inspections re Sanitation and Food Supply :—	
Dwellinghouses inspected	2348
Common Lodging-Houses	159
Houses-let-in-Lodgings	8
Common Yards, Back Roads, and Passages	246
Horse-manure Middensteads	20
Fried Fish Shops	402
Fishmongers' and Greengrocers' Shops	2851
Butchers' Shops	1337
Grocers' Shops	1813
Ice-Cream Premises	652
Shops Act, 1934	1656
Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.	184
Pharmacy and Poisons Act, 1933	66
Factories (with mechanical power)	682
Factories (without mechanical power)	72
Workplaces	7
Outworkers' Premises	25
Bakehouses	369
Offensive Trades	32
Food Preparing Places and Storing Places	810
Canteens, etc.	149
Places of Public Entertainment	55
Tents, Vans and Sheds	369
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	608
Testing Drains	199
Ashes Receptacles	167
Samples of milk and other foodstuffs for chemical analysis	895
Samples of milk for bacteriological and biological examination	379
Samples of water procured for bacteriological examination	12
Brokers' Premises	37
Visits to work in progress	11586
Dwellinghouses and other premises for vermin infestation	554
Pigstyes	47
Smoke Observations	692
Public Conveniences	43
Housing Survey	15476
Miscellaneous visits, Interviews, etc.	2382
Transport Hostels	5
Conversions	64
Schools	5
Food Poisoning Enquiries	60
Refuse Tips and Spoilbanks	74
Samples of Ice-Cream	220
Insufficient Water Supply	3
Samples of other Foodstuffs for Bacteriological Examination	27
Samples of Rag Flock	5
Samples of Fertilisers and Feeding Stuffs	22
Hairdressers' and Barbers' Premises	109
Atmospheric Pollution Gauges	133
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949	3220
Survey of House Refuse Accommodation	10249
	61,585

TABLE 15.

Number of defects for which notices were served during 1950 and results.

Subject of Notice	Pre-liminary notices	Statu-tory notices	Number complied with	Number outstand-ing at end of year
Dampness arising from defective roofs, eavesgutters, rainwater pipes and pointing	2428	1770	2162	266
Defective and choked drains, closets, cesspools, etc.	527	130	527	—
Absence of proper sink	22	8	17	5
Unsatisfactory house refuse accommodation	120	1	64	56
Unsatisfactory yard paving	25	7	12	13
Ditches require cleansing	3	—	1	2
Flooded condition of cellar	1	—	1	—
Insufficient water supply	2	—	—	2
Premises to be whitewashed	79	—	74	5
Filthy or verminous condition of premises	28	—	21	7
Accumulation of manure and offensive matter	12	—	12	—
Keeping of Animals, etc.	4	—	2	2
Other housing defects	2467	1665	2119	348
Excessive emission of smoke	15	—	15	—
Miscellaneous	214	21	126	88
Contravention of :—				
Factories Act, 1937	116	—	100	16
Shops Act, 1934	1	—	1	—
Food and Drugs Act, 1938	123	—	116	7
Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924	6	—	6	—
	6193	3602	5376	817

Referred to other departments :—

To Borough Engineer.

Choked or defective sewers	67
Choked or defective street gullies....	13
Waste of water	114
Dangerous structures	57
Unauthorised erections	6

To Housing Manager.

Choked drains and housing defects	81
Cases of overcrowding	4
Verminous premises	18

To Director of Education.

Defects in schools	5
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To North Western Gas Board.

Escapes of coal gas	10
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CHOKED DRAINS.—During the year 772 complaints of choked drains were made to the Department. Of this number 460 (60%) drains were freed from obstruction by members of the staff of the Sanitary Department, thus obviating the necessity for serving notices upon the owners.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE CONTROLLED BY BYELAWS OR REGULATIONS.

Offensive Trades.—There are 4 offensive trades in the Borough, comprising 3 tripe boilers and 1 rag and bone dealer. During the year 32 visits were paid to premises of this nature.

Camping Sites.—One site was licensed during the year as a camping site for the use of one caravan dweller, but its use for this purpose has since been discontinued.

One offence against section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was reported to the Public Health Committee during the year.

The offence consisted of keeping a moveable dwelling on land without first obtaining a licence from the Local Authority.

Legal proceedings were taken and the offender was fined £1.

Houses-let-in-Lodgings.—There were 5 premises known to the Department to be used as Houses-let-in-Lodgings. 8 visits were paid to these premises during the year.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are at present three common lodging-houses in St. Helens.

159 visits were paid to these premises during the year.

During the year consideration was given to preliminary proposals for the acquiring by the Corporation of one of the existing Common Lodging Houses in the Borough. Subject to approval of these proposals, and following any necessary upgrading of the premises, it was recommended that negotiations should be opened with the Salvation Army with a view to their renting and managing this common lodging house. It is anticipated that firm proposals—and probably full operation of the scheme—will be possible during 1951.

Hairdressers and Barbers.—There were at the end of the year 125 persons registered as hairdressers or barbers, and the number of premises registered was 120.

109 visits of inspection were made to these premises during the year.

Bye-laws with respect to Nuisances.—These byelaws prove very effective for the control of pig-keeping. There were 55 persons known to be engaged in the keeping of pigs, at the end of the year.

OTHER SANITARY CONDITIONS.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949.—The following are the particulars of the work carried out under the above-mentioned Act during the year.

Two full-time Rodent Operators are employed by the Department for this work.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.
Report for period 31st March to 31st December, 1950.

1.—PREVALENCE OF RATS AND MICE

Type of Property	Number of properties in Local Authority's Area			Analysis of Column (iv)		
	Total (i)	Notified by Occupier (ii)	Otherwise discovered (iii)	Number infested by		
				Recorded (Total of (ii) & (iv))	Rats * Major (v)	Rats * Minor (vi)
Local Authority's Property ...	98	6	33	39	1	13
Dwelling Houses ...	26964	68	33	101	—	78
Business Premises ...	2580	10	35	45	4	27
Agricultural Property ...	140	2	6	8	2	6
Total ...	29782	86	107	193	7	124

2.—MEASURES OF CONTROL BY LOCAL AUTHORITY

Type of Property	No. of properties inspected	No. of inspections made	Number of notices served under Section 4	Number of treatments carried out §			Block treatments of properties in different occupancies under S.6(1) or by informal arrangements	
				Treatments	Works	Rats * Mice only		
Local Authority's Property ...	61	350	Nil	Nil	10	25	Nil	
Dwelling Houses ...	2183	2383	Nil	Nil	2	4	Nil	
Business Premises ...	1651	2308	Nil	Nil	20	14	Nil	
Agricultural Property ...	128	346	Nil	Nil	4	Nil	Nil	
Total ...	4023	5387	Nil	Nil	36	43	Nil	

* Included under this heading are properties infested with both rats and mice.

§ Excluding treatments included under block treatments.

St. Helens can be regarded as being in a favourable position in regard to infestation of premises by rats. This is considered as being due to the policy of the Council over a long period in requiring the rat proofing of drains and sewers in the case of all premises where infestations have occurred.

Shops Act, 1934.—In addition to statutory duties in regard to the ventilation and temperature of shops and the provision of sanitary conveniences, the Sanitary Department in St. Helens also takes responsibility for those provisions of the Act relating to lighting, washing facilities and facilities for the taking of meals.

The number of visits paid to shop premises during 1950 was 1656.

Places of Public Entertainment.—55 visits were paid for inspection purposes. The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory.

Public Houses, Beer Houses, etc.—The condition of these premises was found to be generally satisfactory throughout the year.

184 visits of inspection were made.

Canal Boats.—There is only one canal within the Borough (the St. Helens Canal) and this has not been used for traffic for a number of years.

Mortuaries.—A Public Mortuary with post-mortem room is maintained behind the Town Hall, and is under the supervision of the Medical Officer of Health. During the year, 80 bodies were received into the mortuary and 76 post-mortem examinations were conducted.

Arrangements for the Disposal of the Dead.—At the end of the year there were 20.926 acres of land available for burials at the Borough Cemetery, the increase in acreage being two sections of land consecrated for earth burials during the year. There is an additional area of land adjoining the Cemetery which can be utilised for extension purposes, consisting of 23.8 acres ; 8.47 acres of this area will shortly be utilised for the purpose of a Garden of Remembrance, leaving 15.33 acres for future earth burials.

Swimming Baths.—Indoor swimming baths, situate in Boundary Road, are maintained by the Corporation. There are two plunge baths and the method of purification of the water is by means of continuous filtration and chlorination. This method has continued to give reasonable satisfaction throughout the year.

11 samples of water from these baths were taken by the Department for bacteriological examination during the year. The results of these examinations showed that the water was generally satisfactory for bathing purposes.

Rag Flock Acts, 1911 and 1918—Five samples were taken during the year, and were found to be satisfactory.

XVI.—HOUSING.

A statement as to the number of houses erected with and without assistance together with a summary of the work of the department in regard to Housing is given in Table 16.

Table 16
Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year:—

(a) Total (including numbers given separately under (b) and (c))	288
(This number includes 4 houses erected outside the Borough)	
(b) With State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority	253
(This number includes 4 houses erected outside the Borough)	
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	—
(c) Without State Assistance under the Housing Acts :	
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	35
Number of conversions during the year :	
(1) By the Local Authority	—
(2) By private or commercial enterprise	—

1. Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	2348
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	13934
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Consolidated) Regulations, 1925	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	—
(3) Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	9
(4) Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	2295

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	1004
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3. Action under Statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936	—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices served requiring defects to be remedied	1093
(2) Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :	
(a) by owners	833
(b) by Local Authority in default of owners	2
(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:	
(1) Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	9
(2) Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	9

RENT AND MORTGAGE INTEREST RESTRICTIONS ACTS 1920-1939.—During the year, 1 application was received for a sanitary certificate under these Acts. A certificate was granted to the tenant.

DISINFESTATION OF PREMISES AND HOUSEHOLD EFFECTS :—

During the year, 554 inspections of dwellinghouses and food premises for vermin infestation were made by Sanitary Inspectors, and the following disinfection work was carried out :—

(1) No. of privately owned dwellinghouses treated for the destruction of vermin	192
(2) No. of occupied Council houses treated for the destruction of vermin	174
(3) No. of food premises treated for the destruction of vermin	28
(4) No. of Corporation buildings, other than dwellinghouses, treated for the destruction of vermin	12
(5) Other buildings	13
 Total No. of premises treated	 419

In each case the insecticide used was D.D.T.

In 39 instances of re-housing by the Corporation Housing Department, furniture and household effects were disinfested by Hydrogen Cyanide to prevent vermin infestation in the new accommodation. The bedding in these instances was disinfected by steam.

